



FW: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

MCCLINCY Matt to: Kristine Koch

Cc: "ANDERSON Jim M"

04/03/2008 09:17 AM

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hi Kristine,

Below is an e-mail thread that is the most up to date on the DEQ side. It looks like EPA and the Oregon Public Health Division were the responding agencies. Contacts info is available in the e-mail chain if you want to obtain a more current status report.

Matt McClincy
Department of Environmental Quality
(503) 229-5538

-----Original Message-----

From: CHRISTENSEN Jeff
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 9:05 AM
To: MCCLINCY Matt
Subject: FW: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

Matt, see also attached e-mail. I've deleted photos and a number of other e-mails I had earlier but these should provide some background including information regarding who has been involved at EPA and Public Health.

Hope these help!

-----Original Message-----

From: HARRYMAN Mike
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 5:00 PM
To: HEUMANN Michael A; LINDSEY Terry D; Jeff Christensen
Cc: HOLMGREN Christie J; CRANE Elizabeth; Bruce A Gilles; Don Pettit; Joanie Stevens-SCHWENGER; Michael J Zollitsch; Ray Hoy
Subject: Re: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

All:

Our RPS section has been all over this from the start and have done an outstanding job responding, they have notified NRC and OERS per our SOP's.

Its not our normal procedure to contact the Gov's for this type of incident. We defer to OERS for that who also contacts other key agencies like OEM who would do the contacting.

If press releases are required we'll defer to Schnitzer Steel and RPS to see if its even needed.

Hman
Sent from blackberry



628528

Michael (Mike) K. Harryman
Preparedness Director
Oregon- Public Health Division
Department of Human Services
Mike.harryman@state.or.us
Office: 971.673.1320
Cell: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: "CHRISTENSEN Jeff" <Jeff.Christensen@state.or.us>
Cc: Gilles, Bruce A <Gilles-Bruce-A.EMAIL.STATE>
Cc: Hoy, Ray <Hoy-Ray.EMAIL.STATE>
Cc: Pettit, Don <Pettit-Don.EMAIL.STATE>
Cc: Stevens-SCHWENGER, Joanie <Stevens-SCHWENGER-Joanie.EMAIL.STATE>
Cc: Zollitsch, Michael J <Zollitsch-Michael-J.EMAIL.STATE>
To: HARRYMAN, Mike <MHARRYMA@DHS.STATE.OR.US>
To: LINDSEY, Terry D <TLINDSEY@DHS.STATE.OR.US>
To: HEUMANN, Michael A <MHEUMANN@DHS.STATE.OR.US>

Sent: 3/14/2008 4:30:20 PM
Subject: FW: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

Mike et al,

Thanks for your early notification/advance information to Don Pettit on Wednesday evening, which was shared with our emergency folks. If you need any assistance from Oregon DEQ, please do not hesitate to let us know.

I just got off the phone with Chris Field. He is aware that Oregon Public Health has lead for the site. He confirmed the site is secured and safe at this time. He had some questions about whether the Governor's Office had been informed and/or if there would be media interest in the incident, i.e., should press release be proactively provided for the incident? Again, I confirmed that you folks are lead agency.

If we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to let us know. I am available this weekend if needed. Thanks.

Jeff Christensen, Manager
Emergency Response/Environmental Cleanup
Land Quality Division
Oregon DEQ
(503) 229-6391 (work)
(b)) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Macintyre.Mark@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:Macintyre.Mark@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2008 4:41 PM
To: STEVENS-SCHWENGER Joanie
Subject: Fw: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

----- Original Message -----

From: Anthony Barber
Sent: 03/13/2008 03:28 PM PST
To: Elin Miller; pirzadeh.michelle@epa.gov; opalski.dan@epa.gov;
Richard Parkin; Chris Field; poeton.rick@epa.gov; lee.eugene@epa.gov;
Dempsey.gregg@epa.gov; poppell.sam@epa.gov; rodriguez.socorro@epa.gov;
eoc.epahq@epa.gov; Scott West; Bob Wojnicz; macintyre.mark@epa.gov;
brown.anthony@epa.gov; ceto.nick@epa.gov; zhen.davis@epa.gov;
hawthorn.steve@epa.gov; valdes.dennisses@epa.gov;
irizarry.gilberto@epa.gov; Lori Cohen; Cami Grandinetti
Cc: heister.dan@epa.gov; carr.matthew@epa.gov;
Thangamani.Diane@epa.gov; callaghan.marc@epa.gov
Subject: Fw: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

All,

Please see the email below regarding an active response to radiation sources near Portland, Oregon. We have 2 OSCs and at least 2 START personnel en route to assist Oregon state personnel in assessment of the situation.

Noteworthy is the fact that the sources are from a location in Canada, giving this an international dimension, and that at least one of the sources has been cut open and therefore released radioactivity. Also, Cesium-137 is the same radionuclide as the TopOff 4 scenario.

It should be noted that although there has been little or no media interest up to this point, there would seem to be the potential for a very high level of interest in the near future.

Anthony Barber, PE
Emergency Response / Counter-Terrorism Team Leader
US EPA Region 10 Emergency Response Unit
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ECL-116
Seattle, WA 98101
desk: 206-553-2136
fax: 206-553-0175

----- Forwarded by Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US on 03/13/2008 04:19 PM

Matthew

Carr/R10/USEPA/U

S

To

03/13/2008 03:53

PM

lautenberger.carl@epa.gov@EPA,

goolie.mary@epa.gov@EPA, Chris

Field/R10/USEPA/US,

sibley.michael@epa.gov@EPA,

Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US,

Jeffrey Rodin/R10/USEPA/US, Greg
Weigel/R10/USEPA/US, Dan
Heister/R10/USEPA/US, David
Rees/R10/USEPA/US, Michael
Boykin/R10/USEPA/US, Marc
Callaghan/R10/USEPA/US, Earl
Liverman/R10/USEPA/US, Andy
Smith/R10/USEPA/US, Calvin
Terada/R10/USEPA/US, Katherine
Parker/R10/USEPA/US, Adam
Bilodeau/R10/USEPA/US, Josie
Clark/R10/USEPA/US, Diane
Thangamani/R10/USEPA/US,
opalski.dan@epa.gov

cc

Subject

Fw: Cesium release at Schnitzer
Steel in OR

Response Notification:

Shortly before lunch today the State of Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Radiation Protection Services, notified us of a Cesium 137 release at the Schnitzer Scrap Metal facility in Portland, OR. This release apparently occurred from items contained in a scrap metal

shipment from Vancouver, BC. Attached below is a short summary of the current situation and photos of the items. According to ODHS, these items are leaking radiation but have been isolated in a building on the facility away from people.

ERU has dispatched four personnel to the scene, two EPA OSC's (Heister, Thangamani) and two Portland START . They will rendezvous with Radiation Protection Services personnel and National Guard Civil Support

Team personnel currently on scene conducting additional assessment. Additional information will be available post-assessment.

Matthew Carr
EPA Federal On Scene Coordinator
907-271-3616

(b) (6) (cell)
907-271-3424 (fax)

----- Forwarded by Matthew Carr/R10/USEPA/US on 03/13/2008 01:55 PM

"Justin I

SPENCE"

<Justin.I.Spence

To

@state.or.us>

Marc Callaghan/R10/USEPA/US@EPA,

Matthew Carr/R10/USEPA/US@EPA,

03/13/2008 10:12

"Daryl A LEON"

AM

<Daryl.A.Leon@state.or.us> ,

"David M HOWE"

<David.M.Howe@state.or.us> ,

"Kevin H SIEBERT"

<Kevin.H.Siebert@state.or.us> ,

"SHIBLEY, Gail R"

<Gail.R.Shibley@state.or.us>

cc

Anthony Barber/R10/USEPA/US@EPA,

Gregg Dempsey/LV/USEPA/US@EPA,

"Linda McLean" <MLM1@nrc.gov> ,

Rick Poeton/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Sam

Poppell/MTG/USEPA/US@EPA, "Terry

D LINDSEY"

<Terry.D.Lindsey@state.or.us>

Subject

Re: Cesium release at Schnitzer

Steel in OR

Matt Carr et al.,

On March 12, 2008 Oregon Radiation Protection Services (RPS) responded to a radiological event in St. Johns, OR. Responders identified which appears to be a leaking Cesium-137 source. My colleague Daryl Leon is RPS' lead on this incident. You can reach Daryl at 971-673-0498 or daryl.a.leon@state.or.us for detailed information. The RPS main phone line is 971-673-0490.

Daryl has the details, but I can give you a rough sketch. The St. John's, OR facility of Schnitzer Steel reported a radiation alarm on a load of scrap metal. The material had been offloaded from a barge, which had picked up the material at a scrap yard in Vancouver, Canada. The scrap metal appears to come from a Canadian company, Amix. The origin of the material, prior to the Vancouver scrap yard, is unknown at this time.

Three pieces containing Cs-137 have been identified. Two "fixed gage" pieces, each containing Cs-137 may be separated parts of one device. The

first piece is U-shaped and the second is a straight pipe (photos P1010012.JPG and P1010013.JPG attached). Removable Cs-137 contamination

has been identified from the U-shaped piece, and straight piece.

The third piece, a Cs-137 device (photo P1010015.JPG) is a wide cylinder attached to a square steel plate. This third piece does not appear to be part of the pieces one and two. The third device is missing the shutter, so the photon beam is exposed. The source identification plate is missing, and may have been pried off.

Schnitzer Steel has completely offloaded the barge, and would like to

dispatch it to another location. RPS personnel plan to survey the barge before it's planned departure on 3/14/08.

Should you require additional details please contact one of the RPS health physicists, Daryl Leon, Kevin Siebert, or Justin Spence at 971-673-0508. Best Regards,

Justin Spence
Health Physicist
Radiation Protection Services
Oregon Department of Human Services
971-673-0508

>>> <Callaghan.Marc@epamail.epa.gov> 3/13/2008 9:46 AM >>>

Matt-

Justin Spence with the OR Dept of Health gave me a call this morning regarding a Cesium source release at Schnitzer steel here in Oregon. I

have contacted OERS (Oregon Emergency Response System) for the most updated spill report.

OR Dept of Health is just giving us a heads up on this matter. They have not requested our assistance at this time. I told Justin I would notify all of you in the event that they need further assistance.

Matt Carr is the phone duty officer and lead EPA individual that should be kept in the loop. Matt can be reached at 206.553.1263. Matt will

be able to coordinate other EPA resources as needed.

I will forward the OERS report to all of you once I receive it.

Respectfully,

Marc Callaghan, On-Scene Coordinator
USEPA's Oregon Operations Office
Superfund Emergency Response Unit
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205
WK Telephone: (503) 326.2917
Fax: (503) 326.3399

To report oil and chemical spills call the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802

(See attached file: P1010013.JPG)(See attached file: P1010012.JPG)(See attached file: P1010015.JPG)

----- Message from "PETTIT Don" <PETTIT.Don@deq.state.or.us> on Wed, 12 Mar 2008 17:04:30 -0700 -----

To: "CHRISTENSEN Jeff" <CHRISTENSEN.Jeff@deq.state.or.us>, "ZOLLITSCH Michael" <ZOLLITSCH.Michael@deq.state.or.us>, "VAN-PATTEN.Kimberlee@deq.state.or.us", "HOY Ray" <HOY.Ray@deq.state.or.us>

Subject : Fw: Radiation Alarm

FYI ... Some info on radiation event.
Thanks - Don Pettit (from Blackberry)

-----Original Message-----

From: LINDSEY Terry D
To: rpsinfo@bccdc.ca <rpsinfo@bccdc.ca>
CC: SHIBLEY Gail R; HARRYMAN Mike; HEUMANN Michael A; SKEELS Michael R;
gary.robertson@DOH.WA.GOV <gary.robertson@DOH.WA.GOV>; MLM1@nrc.gov
<MLM1@nrc.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 12 16:56:40 2008
Subject: Radiation Alarm

For British Columbia Radiation Protection Services:
Oregon Radiation Protection Services was notified of a radiation alarm at
Schnitzer Steel in Portland, Oregon. The scrap material set off onsite
radiation alarms during onloading and transport to the steel plant from steel
received via barge shipment from AMIX Recycling in Vancouver, B.C.

Oregon RPS emergency response personnel have initially identified a gauge with
metal labeling removed that contains Cesium-137. They also identified several
~1 meter sheared pipe sections that contain Radium-226 and possibly
Cesium-137. RPS personnel are currently onsite to safely secure and recover
radiation sources.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operations Center has been notified of
this incident at contact number 1-301-816-5100.

This message being sent to alert Canadian officials regarding potential for
additional radiation gauge sources being shipped from this metal recycling
facility in Vancouver, B.C.

Please contact our office if you have any questions. /tdl

Terry D. Lindsey, Manager
Radiation Protection Services Section
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Public Health Division
Department of Human Services
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